

BUSINESS



The 2019 edition of the Acura NSX was displayed prominently at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. Only 170 of the cars were sold in the last model year. [MEGAN HENRY/DISPATCH]

Roaring to a halt

Acura NSX sales fell 70 percent in 2018, three years after relaunch

By Megan Henry
The Columbus Dispatch

After roaring out of the gate in its first two years, the Acura NSX is starting to sputter down the road.

The high-performance and high-priced supercar, made in Marysville, has seen sales plummet since it was relaunched in 2016.

Acura sold 581 NSXs in 2017, the first full year the new vehicle was sold. Last year, a mere 170 were sold.

Acura announced in late 2015 that it was reviving the

NSX, a two-seater originally produced from 1990 to 2005. Workers started building the car in the spring of 2016 in the Performance Manufacturing Center in Marysville, a 170,000-square foot facility with about 100 associates.

The car arrived in showrooms in May 2016, a V-6

"supercar" with a starting price of \$156,000 designed to compete with other luxury brands.

NSXs are assembled by hand; the plant can produce no more than 10 cars per day.

"The sales were never really intended to be all that

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CEO Q&A

Director seeks ways to help human service agencies



Michael Corey of the Human Services Chamber
[ROB HARDIN/CEO]

By Mary Sterenberg
For Columbus CEO

Michael Corey took over as executive director of the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County in 2017, becoming the fifth director in the organization's eight years.

Nearly two years later, the chamber's membership has grown from 48 member agencies to nearly 70, including nonprofits such as the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Children's Hunger Alliance, Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus and Catholic Social Services. The chamber gives human service

organizations a unified voice at the local, state and federal levels, helping the larger community understand the challenges that exist for people experiencing poverty in central Ohio.

Q: What was the state of the Human Service Chamber when you took over?

A: The transitions that had happened in the leadership position made it difficult to sustain any sort of consistency or value for our member agencies, so the number of members had declined. But fortunately, we had a really robust group of founding members and board members and others that

had stuck with it. They knew that the potential existed for this organization to be really impactful. My task was to work with the board and our members to figure out what we could do to quickly provide value for each of them quantitatively and qualitatively.

Q: What made you a good candidate for this position when you didn't have a strong professional background in the nonprofit world?

A: I knew I had passion and important skills from my prior careers. I had a lot

See CEO, F6

'Windfall' in tax cut no boon to employees

By Kathryn Kranhold
Center for Public Integrity

SIDNEY — Toward the end of last summer, managers at global giant Emerson Electric Co. called an employee meeting at its air conditioning and refrigeration factory in this city west of Dayton. They had big news: Each employee would get a \$1,000 "special contribution" to a 401(k) retirement account.

The reason? The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that congressional Republicans had passed and President Donald Trump had signed in late 2017, Emerson executives told the Sidney plant employees.

With the announcement, Emerson joined hundreds of companies — as many as 750 by one count — that issued similar statements to show they were sharing the wealth of a \$150 billion cash windfall that firms were estimated to receive in the first year from the tax law.

Emerson's and other companies' payments were a publicity bonanza for the Trump administration and the Republicans in Congress. Back in 2017, as the tax bill moved on the Hill, lawmakers claimed the cut they proposed in the corporate tax rate, to 21 from 35 percent, would trickle down to workers in the form of higher wages and bonuses. Emerson's action, and similar bonuses and wage increases, trumpeted by hundreds of companies like AT&T Corp. and Walmart Corp., provided proof that the Republicans had their economic theory right.

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